

I. AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 16, 19, 20, and 67 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 15 and 21, as shown below.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) [[A]] An *in vitro* screening assay for determining a candidate agent's diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase (DGAT) ~~modulatory~~ inhibitory activity, said assay comprising:

(a) contacting a DGAT polypeptide with said candidate agent, wherein said DGAT polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase activity, and wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least [[90%]] 98% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6; and

(b) detecting a change in DGAT enzymatic activity of said DGAT polypeptide compared to a control to determine said candidate agent's DGAT ~~modulatory~~ inhibitory activity.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 98% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

18. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

19.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The screening assay according to Claim 15 [[20]], wherein said contacting comprises introducing said candidate agent into a cell that includes said DGAT polypeptide.

22.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said detecting comprises detecting incorporation of a detectably labeled fatty acyl CoA into a diacylglycerol acceptor.

67. (Canceled)